

**Amendments to the claims:**

Claims 1-16 cancelled.

17. (New) A unitized starter construction system for an internal combustion engine, comprising a plurality of sets of modules of different types including a set of modules of a first type each being formed as a drive module having a starter motor and a set of modules of a second type each being formed as a gear module having a reduction gear, at least a set of modules of one type having at least two modules of said one type, said drive module including a first unitized interface embodied as a pinion gear while said gear module including a second unitized interface comprising a receiving area for the pinion gear, so that said drive module and said gear module are operatively connectable with one another by bringing together said first and second interface, and at least one module of another type is operatively connectable with any of the at least two modules of said one type.

18. (New) The unitized starter construction system of claim 17, wherein said sets of modules include at least one electronic module.

19. (New) The unitized starter construction system of claim 17, wherein the at least one gear module includes a planetary gear.

20. (New) The unitized starter construction system of claim 19, wherein a sun wheel of the planetary gear is a slip-on pinion of a drive shaft of the drive module.

21. (New) The unitized starter construction system of claim 17, wherein the at least one gear module includes an integrated free-wheel mechanism.

22. (New) The unitized starter construction system of claim 18, wherein the at least one electronic module is disposed between the at least one drive module and the at least one gear module.